



April 7, 2022

To Whom It May Concern,

North Olympic Peninsula Lead Entity for Salmon

Clallam County Courthouse
223 E. Fourth Street, # 5
Port Angeles, WA 98362
360/417-2326

We are a watershed consortium working to advance salmon restoration and protection actions on the North Olympic Peninsula. Our consortium includes members from the Jamestown S’Klallam, Elwha Klallam, and Makah Tribes, Clallam County, the cities of Port Angeles and Sequim, area citizens and environmental organizations.

Per the Dungeness Chapter of the Puget Sound Chinook Recovery Plan, resolving issues related to instream flow is identified as a major goal to tackle to help improve conditions and recover Dungeness Chinook. Instream flow issues are huge in the Dungeness due to the fact that the area is in a rain shadow which receives the least amount of rain in western Washington. Climate change -related drought conditions has exacerbated matters. With increasing temperatures, we can no longer rely on healthy snow pack as a way to get through the low flow conditions in late summer and early fall.

The situation is further compounded by the over appropriation of the limited water resources available. Simply put, if everyone with rights to Dungeness River water used it, there would be no water left in the river.

The proposed reservoir attempts to help solve this issue by storing water during high flows which can be used during low flows in late summer and early fall to supplement water needs benefitting both people and fish. Actions to deal with instream flow issues, aquifer recharge and water storage issues are identified within our prioritized workplan.

This is why I am writing this letter of support for federal FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program funding to support efforts to advance the Dungeness Reservoir project in Clallam County. Many partners and entities are working collaboratively to help make this happen. But it is an extremely large undertaking and funding support is very much needed.

Sincerely,

Cheryl Baumann

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